## Message Text

**SECRET** 

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06288 120914Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /070 W

-----056375 121256Z /43

R 120850Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9570
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

SECRETJIDDA 6288

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EG, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI-EGYPTIAN CONNECTION

REF CAIRO 14610

1. WE THINK REFTEL GIVES A FAIR AND BALANCED ANALYSIS
OF MAJOR POINTS OF SAUDI RELATIONS WITH EGYPT. THERE
FOLLOWS SOME COMMENTS PASSED ON TO US CONCERNING
PERCEPTIONS OF SUBMINISTERIAL-LEVEL SAUDI OFFICIALS WHO
DEAL EXTENSIVELY WITH EGYPT. SAUDIS ON THIS LEVEL
ADMINISTERING MODA AND MINFIN FUNDS DEALING WITH EGYPT
SEEK BROADER CONSTRAINTS AND RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON
GOE ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH THEY REGARD AS SUFFOCATED
BY CLOGGED BUREAUCRACY AND SPECIAL INTERESTS, RECENT
GOE IMPATIENCE WITH SAUDI PAYMENTS ON GULF FUND
RECIPORCATED BY SAG ADMINISTRATORS SEEKING HANDHOLD
ON SLIPPERY EGYPTIAN FINANCES. HEMORRHAGING OF SAUDI
AID THROUGH CORRUPTION STRONGLY RESENTED BY SAUDI
TECHNOCRATS WHO SEE MARWAN/ADHAM CONNECTION IN SAME LIGHT
SECRET

**SECRET** 

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AS PARA 2 REFTEL. SAG OFFICIALS' OBSERVATIONS ON GOE FINANCIAL MORASS ARE NOT MADE WITH SENSE OF OBLIGATION TO WHAT THEY CONSIDER OVERBLOWN GOE CLAIMS TO SACRIFICES IN ARAB CAUSE, BUT ARE TART AND UNFORGIVING ON GOE INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION. THOUGH NO MEAN COMPETITORS THEMSELVES IN THESE SWEEPSTAKES, SAG OFFICIALS VIEW GOE IN HANDLING OF ECONOMY AS WORLD CHAMPION IN GENERAL

PECULATION, OBFUSCATION AND DEGENERACY. THEY OFTEN CITE HEJAZI PROVERB (QUOTE) AFTER SHAKING HANDS WITH AN EGYPTIAN, BE SURE TO COUNT YOUR FIGNERS. (UNQUOTE).

2 AS FOR EGYPTIAN PERCEPTION OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AS BLOCK TO SYRIAN AMBITIONS FOR GREATER SYRIA, IT IS TURE THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE UNIFIED BAATHIST FERTILE CRESCENT STATE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SAUDIS VIEW INDDEPENDENT PALESTINE AS MAJOR CHECK ON SYRIAN AMBITIONS. SAUDIS BELIEVE THAT IN ANY EVENT THEY WOULD BE ABLE THROUGH FINANCIAL MEANS TO ASSURE FRIENDLY REGIME IN PALESTIN.

OVER LONG TERM, WE THINK SAUDIS ASPIRE

TO BE NEW FULCRUM OF POWER IN POST SETTLEMENT PERIOD, BIWTH INFLUENCE RADIATING NOT ONLY THROUGH THE RIM OF THE PENINSULA, JORDAN AND PALESTINE, BUT ALSO TO BOTH SYRIA AND EGYPT AS WELL.

WEST

SECRET

NNN

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